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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Missionary family counting on miracles

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Miracles can be huge. Foreign Mission Board missionary Nancy Watts knows.

The fact that her husband, Wade, and her 9-year-old son, Marcus, are alive today is proof enough of that.

By all accounts they should have died Feb. 1 when the car in which the family was traveling was destroyed in a head-on collision on a mountain road outside Lima, Peru. It was a miracle no one was killed.

As it was, both Wade and Marcus were left in grave condition, their minds in comas, their odds for survival slim.

That was eight long months ago. Now, as she brings her family through the slow process of healing in Memphis, she finds miracles also are little things, small blessings that accumulate day by day.

The recovery of Marcus has been amazing. Physically and mentally he is back to 90%. With a little help, he is adjusting to the fourth grade at Macon Road Baptist School; making new friends; and dealing, along with his brother, Joshua, 8, with the pain of missing his father.

Her husband's progress has been much slower. After the accident, weeks went by before he could be flown back to the United States. Brain and internal injuries made the lengthy flight too risky.

Finally medical authorities decided to move him. While his body was stabilizing, it was unclear whether his mind would heal.

Every day Nancy visited the hospital. "I would talk, tell him about all that was going on, but we weren't getting any answers from him. ... We didn't know if he understood what we said. I felt like he did, but there was no way we could be sure," she says.

Finally a breakthrough came. He was able to respond to statements by blinking his eyes. Seizing this opportunity, they worked out a system in which he would blink once for yes, twice for no.

By asking him specific questions, Nancy finally was assured that his memory was intact. It was the first hopeful thing.

Such signs of progress have kept Nancy's situation bearable. She has had to be strong in ways that before the accident she would have thought impossible. Circumstances demand it. The children depend on it.

Although Marcus is recovering steadily, he still has special needs. His short-term memory suffers. The teachers at his school have been helpful, modifying assignments to help him feel successful. He does not want to be different; he wants things to come easily as they did for him before.

Nancy tries to be patient. In late September, when Joshua got a bicycle for his birthday, Marcus wanted to ride. His first attempts were futile. He kept falling off. Exasperated, he became impossible to console.

"The next day he did fine. He just took off," Nancy says. "Things like that are frustrating, trying to encourage him until he masters the things he wants to do."

Beyond his frustration in not being able to do things is the problem of needing to understand why things are different.

"Marcus knows that God saved him, that he was very close to dying and that God spared his life," Nancy says. "But he misses Peru and his home a lot."

"That's where he's coming from: 'Why do we have to be here? Why did it have to happen?' It's tough for me. I have no answer for him. God did not cause it, but for some reason he allowed it to happen, and we just don't know why."

The questions do not seem to bother Joshua as much although he, too, does miss Peru. Daily the family talks about friends

and the missionary "family" there.

Birthdays and special days are the hardest. On Joshua's birthday, missionary co-worker Kathy Phillips sent a box of cookies from Peru.

Nancy suggested Joshua respond by letter. His note "read something like, 'I hope that you're doing good and that you keep



Marcus (left) and Joshua Watts (right) visit with Stephanie Eiland, a Memphis speech therapist. Both boys were injured when their missionary family was involved in a head-on collision in February with another vehicle on a mountain road outside Lima, Peru. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)



Nancy Watts keeps vigil in a Memphis hospital while her husband, Wade, continues to recover from an automobile collision in Peru involving their missionary family last February. Nancy expects the miracle of healing to continue. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Happy Thanksgiving



In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
1 Thess. 5:18 (KJV)

Looking back

10 years ago

The first official Mississippi Pastor's Conference takes place prior to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Gene Henderson, pastor, First Church Brandon, chairs the planning committee. Gerald Harris, pastor, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, is elected president.

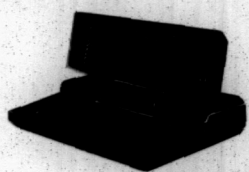
20 years ago

Marjean Patterson, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, delivers checks to J.C. Renfro and Vance Dyeas of Rankin Association to pay off mission properties at the Castlewoods and Crossgates developments in Rankin County.

30 years ago

The 111th annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention sets a Cooperative Program offering goal of \$1 million dollars and okays an objective of enlisting 100,000 tithers for 1947. New officers include Auber J. Wilds, president; Owen Cooper, first vice president; W.G. Mize, second vice president.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**
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Give thanks where thanks is due

Among the original American holidays on our calendar, Thanksgiving often harbors our warmest thoughts and deepest sentimentalities.

"The World Book Encyclopedia" puts it this way:

Thanksgiving is usually a family day, celebrated with big dinners and joyous reunions. The very mention of Thanksgiving often calls up memories of kitchens and pantries crowded with good things to eat. Thanksgiving is also a time for serious religious thinking, church services, and prayer.

Indeed it is. In our present-day, politically-correct/revisionist culture, we can be discouraged from understanding the true meaning of the holiday.

We are induced to believe Thanksgiving is little more than a bacchanalian orgy, devoid of religious significance.

Nothing could be farther from the truth, as evidenced by a brief review of unrevised history.

The first Thanksgiving was observed less than a year after the Plymouth colonists came ashore in Massachusetts.

The harsh first winter in the New World wiped out nearly half the colonists, but 1621's bumper harvest put an end to the famine and its associated problems.

There was such rejoicing in the colony that the people began to set aside a time of celebration and thanksgiving for their abundance — which they readily acknowledged as coming from Almighty God.

The observance grew so rapidly that Massachusetts Governor William Bradford declared a formal three-day thanksgiving feast to be held on July 30, 1623.

Thanksgiving quickly took root in the other colonies and continued to be observed during the Revolutionary War.

After the Revolutionary War, President George Washington issued a proclamation that codified a special day of thanks in the

United States. Most of the states took Washington's lead and adopted their own days of thanksgiving at various times in the year.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln formally declared a national Thanksgiving holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, and the states soon realigned their observances.

President Franklin Roosevelt set the holiday one week earlier in 1939, to lengthen the Christmas shopping season in the midst of The Great Depression.

The U.S. Congress was not pleased, however, voting in 1941 to return Thanksgiving to the traditional fourth Thursday in November and backing up its decision by creating a formal legal holiday on that date.

...

For thousands of years, people around the world have held harvest festivals and observed thanksgiving for the gift of God's bounty, but this uniquely American holiday called Thanksgiving should hold special meaning for us, the modern-day benefactors of God's blessings beyond all forms of measurement.

Our agricultural system feeds us, with enough left over to feed the world. More than at any time in history, our generation is sheltered from the elements and guarded from disease.

We make a grave mistake, however, when we take all that for granted and begin to believe we are responsible for our own good fortune (Deut. 8:6-19), as so many Americans today apparently assume.

This Thanksgiving, be sure to focus your thanks toward the One who provided the food you will eat, the home in which you

"MAKE US THANKFUL FOR THIS FOOD. AFTER ALL, YOU RAISED THE DEAD. YOU HEALED THE SICK. YOU CAN DO THIS!"



will eat it, the family with whom you will enjoy it, and the means to do all of that and much more.

Come to think of it, that should be our thanksgiving prayer 365 days a year.

Delivery delayed

Due to the federal holiday on Thursday, November 28, delivery of "The Baptist Record" next week may be delayed by one to two days.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



Spending time on mule shadows

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

The owner replied that the boy had only hired the right to ride on the mule's back, not to enjoy the mule's shadow.

The two men began to argue. Pretty soon, the argument gave way to the exchange of blows.

At this point, Demosthenes stopped telling the story. The crowd begged him to continue.

With their passions thus aroused, Demosthenes said, "How can you insist upon hearing a story about the shadow of a mule, and yet not give ear to the critical matters of our day?"

The crowd was quiet. Demosthenes picked up his prepared text on the political issues and continued his speech.

We live in a world like that.

People don't want to be challenged with the truth. They would much rather be entertained or amused.

Do you know the origin of the word "amuse?" The "muse" part comes from the same root as the word "museum," which means "a place to think." The prefix "a" negates. It means "no" or "not."

Thus, "amuse" means to "not think."

That is what the kid said after he tried to push the door clearly marked "pull," and his nose was broken from the impact: "I just didn't think."

How often has that been your excuse? It's a whole lot easier to debate the success or failure of the Dallas Cowboys than it is to

discuss spiritual matters, but which is more needed?

It is easier to be amused than to be contemplative.

The price of success, though, has always been the willingness to tackle the tougher problems.

Just before I came to "The Baptist Record," a man shared with me his first experience at being a witness.

It was, he said, the hardest thing he had ever done, but this friend of his was headed down the wrong road. Someone needed to talk with this man about life, not just deer hunting.

So, after much prayer and several false starts, he did it. He asked his friend about eternal life and about Christ.

He shared his own testimony of faith. He encouraged his friend to seek God as the answer to his problems. They talked about life's real concerns, and it made a difference!

What about your family life? Do you spend your time always talking about the shadow of mules, or do you make the effort talk about the real issues of life?

It is worth the effort. Give it a try during this holiday. Don't just talk turkey, talk life!

MC launches \$80 million 'A New Dawn' campaign

An anonymous \$25 million gift has been made to kick off Mississippi College's (MC) \$80 million 'A New Dawn' capital campaign, according to MC president Howell W. Todd.

Todd announced the gift during halftime festivities of the MC homecoming football game, which also marked the beginning of "A New Dawn."

"We will become the 'Christian University of the South' if we rally long-term support from the many people whose lives have been touched by MC," Todd said.

"MC is known for offering academic excellence in a Christian atmosphere, but we must position this university now to serve its future genera-

tions of students," he added.

The \$25 million gift must be matched by the general fundraising efforts of the campaign over the next three to five years.

Serving as chairman for the fundraising effort is Bernard J. Ebberts, president and CEO of WorldCom in Clinton. Leland Speed, chairman and CEO of Parkway Properties and

EastGroup Properties in Jackson, is the friends division chair, and Bill Sones, chairman, president and CEO of State Bank and Trust Company in Brookhaven, is the university division chair. Henry Hederman of Jackson is the honorary campaign chairman.

The campaign funds will be used for specific improvements at the Clinton campus, including construction of a connector building between Self Hall and Hederman Science Building; renovation/relocation of the law school; and renovations to Nelson, Lowery, Aven, and Self Halls; and renovation of Hederman Science Building. Construction of a performing arts center is also being considered.

For more information contact Danny Rutland, MC vice-president for institutional development, at (601) 925 3256.

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE



Lottie Moon Prayer Garden
Baptists in Charlottesville, Va., can take a peaceful walk through the garden named in honor the woman who discovered Christ at First Church, Charlottesville in 1859 and went on to become the embodiment of Southern Baptist foreign missionary service. Enjoying the garden are (from left) Freddie and Dorothy Sun, First Church pastor Joel Jenkins, and Michael Zhu. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

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Record

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Miss. to host missionary appointment service

JACKSON, Miss.— At least 3,000 people are expected to gather at First Church, Jackson, Dec. 8 to see about 50 new missionaries appointed for overseas work.

That number would fill the church's sanctuary for the 6:30 p.m. appointment service of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB).

"We're planning for an overflow crowd," said Vicki Heath, director of Woman's Missionary Union at First Church.

In fact, a number of Mississippi Baptist churches have canceled Sunday night worship services so their church members can attend the appointment service, Heath said.

"The excitement is really building," she said.

People attending the Jackson service will hear testimonies from the new missionaries, who will fill diverse job assignments from starting churches to using sports, education and business as tools of ministry.

Two Mississippians are among the candidates for missionary appointment:

◆ Brad Roderick of Gulfport is seeking appointment with his wife, the former Gretchen Pieper of Enfield, Conn., for service as church planters in India.

Currently Roderick, a graduate of Mississippi College in

Clinton, is coordinator of new church extension for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey.

◆ Celeste Corey of Grenada is seeking appointment as an education coordinator for children of FMB missionaries in southern Asia and the Pacific.

Corey, who expects to live in Singapore, has served there during the past two years through the board's International Service Corps.

"God has shown me clearly through a growing sense of peace and assurance that he wants me to continue overseas," she said in a written testimony. "Although there will be many changes in my life and many things I will miss, I know that true joy comes from being obedient to God's call."

During the appointment service worshipers will be urged to pray about what God might be calling them to do in missions.

They will be challenged by a mission message from FMB President Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian, and a global mission update from Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president for overseas operations.

The service also will feature a colorful parade of flags and music by First Church's choir

and orchestra.

Worshipers will have an opportunity to publicly indicate their commitments to overseas service.

The missionaries to be appointed Dec. 8 will join the nearly 4,200 FMB workers sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ among 336 ethnic people groups in 127 countries. In 1995 the board's missionaries helped lead 287,806 people to Christ and baptism.

They and their overseas partners started 2,612 churches and reported a record 4.1 million members in 39,073 churches overseas.

That work is made possible by gifts from churches like First Church, Jackson, a leading contributor to Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

In addition, First Church, Brookhaven, annually leads the entire Southern Baptist Convention in Lottie Moon gifts.

The 9,500-member congregation last year gave nearly \$243,000 to that offering, which supports FMB work overseas.

The church's 1996 Lottie Moon offering goal is \$250,000.

Preparing for the appointment service has been "affirming and excitement-generating for our congregation," said Jim Baker, First Church's administrative pastor.



Corey

"We think a by-product of having this service here will be that our church gives the largest Lottie Moon offering we've ever given," he said.

The event will cap off First Church's annual Foreign Mission Weekend, to be held Dec. 6-8 at the church.

About 15 FMB missionaries will be featured during that emphasis, which promotes the Lottie Moon offering.

The missionary appointment service will precede an FMB trustee meeting Dec. 9-11 at the Harvey Hotel, Jackson.

Next week...

After four years of struggling to keep programs and ministries going in a racially-transitional community, a church sells its property and moves to the suburbs. The first Sunday in rented facilities, 12 people join the church. They had not seen this kind of response in a long time.

Twenty-six months later the church moves into a brand new facility, and immediately begins having space problems. They built too small.

Does God lead a church to move from one community to another?

In the face of community change, church growth, or the aging of facilities, some churches relocate. Next week, read part two of the series by associate editor Carl M. White on churches facing change: *Churches on the move*.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Officers elected by the Mississippi Luther Rice Seminary Alumni for 1996-97 are Robert H. Perry, pastor, Macedonia Church, Lincoln Association, president; Odus Jackson, pastor, Leesburg Church, Rankin Association,

vice-president; and Randy W. Kolb, Woodland Church, Pontotoc, treasurer.

Bethlehem Church, Scott Association, went over a goal of 110 in Sunday School on Nov. 3 with more than 112.

Sunday School visitation was held the previous Tuesday with 23 people making 30 visits and enrolling 18 in Sunday School.

New Orleans Seminary will host "Messiah Sing-Along" at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 2. For more information, contact the Office of Church Music Ministries, New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd.,

New Orleans, LA 70126-4858. Telephone (504) 282-4455, ext. 3226.

Oak Grove Church, Lake, received an offering of \$1,357 for State Missions in September. The church also received \$342 for the Gideons. A luncheon was held in the new Family Life Building Center on Oct. 27. Victor Roy Vaughn Sr. is pastor.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Earline Elam (left) was honored for 45 years as treasurer of Goodwater Church, Enterprise. A reception was held in her honor on Oct. 27. Elam is pictured with Clay Cooley, pastor of Goodwater Church.



Calvary Church, Corinth, ordained Gerald Jones as a deacon on Sept. 29. Pictured with Jones is Warren Jones, pastor.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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RFBR ZH RFTM YFBIR
ETOHDYY XZRF RFL
QTMRF RFD ITNP VDYM,
BOP YFBIR GDIZDCD ZO
RFZOD FDBNR RFBR KTP
FBRF NBZYDP FZQ HNTQ
RFD PDBP, RFTM YFBIR
GD YBCDP.

NTQBOY RDO: OZOD

Clue: Q equals M
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Eleven one

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HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 21, 1996

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Institute for Equipping Churches

B E Y O N D 2 0 0 0

February 27 - March 1, 1997

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison

The purpose of the Institute for Equipping Churches Beyond 2000 is to provide quality training at one place and time for as many people as possible.

Your church will benefit in many ways from this time of training. Workers do a better job and tend to serve longer when they are trained. Pupils are happier and more attentive when their leaders are trained.

Your participation in this institute is most warmly requested. The difference in churches is leaders and the difference in leaders is training!

THURSDAY

8:30-11:30 a.m.

Senior Adult Rally

Johnnie Foster, Dewayne Beatty, Faye Brown

9:00-11:30 a.m.

Preschool/Children's Forum

James Hargrove
Kay Henry

2:00-4:00 p.m.

First Contact

Kay Henry

WMU Leadership Team Update

WMU State Staff

2:00-4:30 p.m.

Doctrine Study Overview

John Gilbert

5:00-6:45 p.m.

Pastor/Staff Banquet

Chuck Kelley

5:45-6:45 p.m.

Minister's Wives Seminar

Rhonda Kelley

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fresh Encounter Overview

David Carter

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Age Group Teaching Series

How to teach preschoolers using the resource
Love, Laughter and Learning-Kay Henry

How to teach children using the resource

Crayons, Computers and Kids-James Hargrove

How to teach teenagers using the resource

Connected, Committed and a Little Bit Crazy-Mark Lott

How to teach adults using the resource

Vision, Variety and Vitality-Neal Cordle

8:00-9:00 p.m.

Experiencing God Overview

David Carter

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Growth Spiral

Ken Marler

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

MasterLife Overview

David Carter

9:00-11:30 a.m.

Truth Matters Overview

Ron Mumbower

Special Education

Gene Nabi

Preacher's Conference

Chuck Kelley

Women's Celebration

Rhonda Kelley

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Preacher's Conference

Chuck Kelley

Women's Celebration (cont.)

Rhonda Kelley

Truth Matters

Ron Mumbower

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Drama Festival-Woodland Hills BC

Wes Pegues

7:00-9:00 p.m.

SS Directors

Jerri Herring

Outreach Directors

Ken Marler

DT Adult Resources Showcase

David Carter

Singles Ministries

Joey Rodgers

10:00 p.m.-midnight

Singles Rally

Al Fike

SATURDAY

9:00-11:00 a.m.

DT Director Seminar

Mose Dangerfield

WMU Leadership Team Update

WMU State Staff

9:00-11:30 a.m.

How to Make the Most Out of Sunday School Age Group Curriculum

Neal Cordle, Mark Lott,
James Hargrove, Kay Henry

9:00 a.m.-noon (cont.)

Sunday School Directors

Jerri Herring

Outreach Directors

Ken Marler

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Family Ministry Overview

Glenn Shows

11:00 a.m.-noon

Making Love Last Forever Overview

Glenn Shows

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dwayne Beatty-min. with Sr. Adults, Longview, TX

Faye Brown-author, humorist, Moundville, AL

David Carter-Adult DT specialist, BSSB

Neal Cordle-Adult consultant, BSSB

Mose Dangerfield-DT director, MBCB

Al Fike-comedian, Garland, TX

Johnnie Foster-dramatist, Aberdeen, MS

John Gilbert-consultant, BSSB

James Hargrove-Children's consultant, BSSB

Kay Henry-Preschool consultant, BSSB

Jerri Herring-consultant, BSSB

Rhonda Kelley-professor, NOBTS, New Orleans, LA

Chuck Kelley-president, NOBTS, New Orleans, LA

Mark Lott-Youth consultant, MBCB

Ken Marler-consultant, MBCB

Ron Mumbower-min. with Counseling, Jackson, MS

Gene Nabi-Special Education consultant, BSSB

Joey Rodgers-min. with Singles, Jackson, MS

Glenn Shows-DT consultant, MBCB

Meaning and Purpose of Christ's Coming

The four week period preceding Christmas is the beginning of the Christian calendar year. This period is often observed as a time of anticipation regarding Christ's coming or advent. The word "advent" means "coming" and refers to the coming of Jesus which was anticipated by the prophets. Christ has come and will come.

This is a season of anticipation and preparation. The meaning of Christmas cannot be grasped hastily. Special observance of this time can enrich the whole meaning of Christmas. The emphasis on waiting, preparation, and longing for God can counter the secular observance of Christmas that is too early, too easy, and too superficial.

In the sixth century, some Christians honored this season by setting aside a time of family worship to prepare themselves for the celebration of Christ's coming. This experience is a good way to teach children the full meaning of Christmas and to unite the family in love, warmth, gratitude, and worship.



Celebration of Christ's Coming

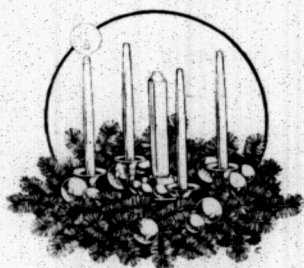
A wreath is often used to provide a focus for our thinking and talking about Jesus during special times of fellowship and family worship during this season. The wreath can have much symbolism:

The wreath is round, with no beginning or end. This signifies the eternity of God's creation, of His love and care for man.

It is bound with evergreen foliage. The evergreen reminds us that our faith, our hope and our love are ever alive when they come from God and His Son.

The candles in the wreath represent Christ who said, "I am the light of the world." There are four candles in the wreath each representing the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. Three are purple, the color associated with kings and royalty, and one is pink, representing joy. A fifth candle, sometimes referred to as a "Christ candle," may be added at the center of the wreath and lighted on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This is usually a white candle, symbolizing purity.

For additional age appropriate suggestions for making Christmas meaningful, see "Sunday School Leadership," December 1996 issue, available from the Baptist Sunday School Board.



Christmas Family Worship

Celebration of Hope - First Week -

Lighting of the first candle, known as the "prophet's candle."

God is working toward a goal of fulfillment for His people. We wait in a world of darkness for this realization.

Monday - Isaiah 2:1-5

Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Wednesday - Matthew 24:36-44

Thursday - Luke 21:25-36

Friday - Jeremiah 33:14-16

Saturday - Psalm 122

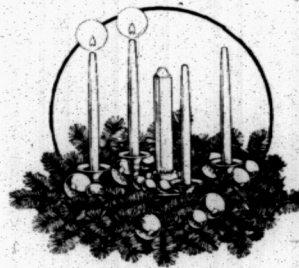
Prayer: Father God, keep us looking toward the celebration of the coming of your Son. May we be joyful and greet Him with praise. Amen.

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Suggested Family Activities:

Make an evergreen wreath that will be used for the next four weeks. The wreath is used to help symbolize and visualize the meaning of the four divisions of the season. The four divisions of the season are; hope, peace, joy, and love. The first three weeks are symbolized by dark purple candles, representing the darkness of the world before the arrival of the Messiah. The fourth candle, representing love, is pink and symbolizes our hope. It stands in contrast to the dark candles.

In the center of the four candles stands one large white candle. This is the "Christ candle" which we will light either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day along with the other four. The candles burning together, with the Christ candle in the center, symbolize God's act of sending light into our world of darkness.



Christmas Family Worship

Celebration of Peace - Second Week -

Lighting of the second candle.

"Thou shalt bring forth a Son" (Luke 1:31)

Peace is what we await. We believe that peace is of God, and yet it does not, at times, appear to be of this world. The peace of Jesus Christ does dwell here and will come yet again.

Monday - Matthew 3:1-12

Tuesday - Isaiah 11:1-10

Wednesday - Philippians 1:3-11

Thursday - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Friday - Mark 1:1-8

Saturday - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Prayer: Everlasting God, thank You for sending Peace. Thank You for sending your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Song: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Suggested Family Activities:

Leave a bag of toys and goodies with a family, anonymously. Talk about the experience on the way home. Discuss feelings concerning giving to others.

Collect money saved for the Christmas Missions offering and place in a family envelope to give at church.



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DECEMBER 29-31, 1996

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MUSIC
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Christ

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Conference for Church Business Administrators

It is not too early for those responsible for the business end of church work to begin planning to attend the Church Business Administrators' Conference, Jan. 23, at Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson.

Topics will deal with central purchasing and materials management, food services, building and property maintenance, payroll and employees, and managing church finances with integrity.

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January 18
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William Carey College
February 1
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mississippi College
February 22
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$7.50

(includes: basketball game, meal, program
and limited insurance)

For further information, call the WMU Department at
1-800-748-1651.

Special Events for Special Weekends

If you have an interest in special weekend events at your church, consider these possibilities: Lay Renewal, Experiencing God, Legacy Builders, Discipleship, and LIFT weekends.

Each has a special accent for the church. For details on the first three, contact the Brotherhood Department. Contact Discipleship and Family Ministry for the Discipleship Weekend, and Church Administration for LIFT.

Pray this day for...

November 22-December 5, 1996

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"Purity is the outcome of continual exposure to God's presence."

- Alice Smith

The Ten Commandments serve as a standard for how people are to relate to God and to one another. Pray that God's people will live according to His commands.

For churches seeking pastors and for pastors who are seeking calls from churches.

For the Mississippi Gaming Commission that the Commissioners will oppose gambling and especially the expansion of gambling to inland waterways of our state.

Pray that the Mississippi Baptist WMU will be successful in raising \$1.2 million to build a thirty-room lodge for additional lodging of adult groups at Camp Garaywa.

Almost 800 million people in the developing world are undernourished, consuming too few calories to sustain more than light physical activity. Pray that we will do more to relieve world hunger.

Pray for churches to meet the changing needs of American families, such as marital and child-parent conflicts, premarital pregnancy, divorce, terminal illness, abuse, and families of homosexuals.

Thanksgiving Day
Pray that Christians will be truly grateful for all of God's blessings and that we will be willing to share those blessings with others, especially the blessing of salvation.

Keeping Life in Perspective: Sharpening Your Sense of What's Important, a book by Jim Henry, encourages Christians to retain a sense of balance by having a daily quiet time and scripture meditation.

The Baptist Sunday School Board as it considers changing its name. Pray that their trustees will know if this is the right thing to do and if so what name to recommend to the Southern Baptist

Today begins the season of prayer for Foreign Missions. Pray that every Baptist will be burdened for those who are lost, especially in places where people haven't heard the Gospel.

For the African-American Fellowship, Baptist Building; 10 am-2 pm, sponsored by Missions Extension and Associational Missions Dept.

For the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Mtg., Baptist Building; 9 am.; Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Mtg., Baptist Building, 10 am.

For the Experiencing God discipleship course being offered on the Internet by Thomas Kennedy of Holland, MI. The course will be launched in Jan., May and Sept.

Pray that individuals and congregations will be taught to worship through singing because hymns provide instruction in Christian living.



JANUARY

- 4-76 MR. BENJAMIN "KY" JOHNSTON; Mississippi College
P.O. Box 4694, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Vincent & Sharon, Conference/Encampment; BRAZIL
- 4-78 MR. JOSHUA D. METTS; Oklahoma Baptist University
Box 61174, 500 W. University, Shawnee, OK 74801-2590
Parents: Joe, Jr. & Angela, Gen. Evangelism; DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- 8-84 MISS EMILY SMITH, Casilla 223,
8300 Neugen, ARGENTINA
Parents: Steve & Vidonia Smith, Gen. Evangelism
- 13-82 MR. SCOTT COREY, 7336 Anela Place
Diamondhead, MS 39520
Parents: Charles & Patricia, Field Personnel Assistance
- 15-83 MISS CHESED A. DENT, International Board, 190 Middle Road
#18-01 Fortune Center, SINGAPORE 188979
Parents: Donald & Anne, Associate to the Area
- 19-80 MISS E. AMY PARKER, 28 Tremena Gardens
St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 5QH, UNITED KINGDOM
Parents: Jeffrey & Shiela, Gen. Evangelism
- 22-86 MR. BENJAMIN J. BAILEY, Apartado 22,
09901, Quetzaltenango, GUATEMALA, CA
Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth, Music Promotion
- 24-77 MISS AMY MCCAIN, Mississippi College
P. O. Box 4771, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Donald & Rose, Publications Coordination; PORTUGAL
- 26-89 MISS HANNAH MICHELLE RAY, UEC-Baptists
3-A, L. Tolstogo St., Kiev-4, 252004, UKRAINE
Parents: Michael & Linda, Religious Education
- 29-84 MR. NEIL A. GREEN, Bolanos 141
1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
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For further information contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or toll-free 1-800-748-1651.

HOUSE TOPS

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Prentiss Cox, professor of Biology at Mississippi College, has been selected as the Mississippi College Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer for



1996. Cox will present his lecture on Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. The lecture is entitled "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life: Revisited."

Cox The jazz ensemble of Mississippi College will per-

STAFF CHANGES

Jim D. Cain has joined the staff of **Carterville Church, Petal**, as minister of students. He previously served as associate pastor at Monticello Church, Monticello. A native of Starkville, Cain is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary.



Cain

Calvary Church, Greenville, has called **David Lee** as pastor, effective Nov. 11. Lee was serving as interim. A native of Greenville,

Lee received his education at Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary.

First Church, Oxford, has called **Mark Jarrett** as minister to students/recreation, effective Sept. 29. A native of Nashville, Tenn., Jarrett received his education at the University of Tennessee and Southern Seminary. His previous place of service was Eastern Gate Church, Shepherdsville, Ky.

First Church, Greenwood, has called **Jimmy D. Sartain** as pastor, effective Oct. 27. A native of Water Valley, he received his education at Delta State University, Cleveland, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Parkway Church, Natchez.

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form in the courtyard of Jennings Hall on Dec. 2 at 9 p.m. "This will give the students an opportunity to take a break from their studies as they prepare for finals," said John Hanbery, band director. For more information, contact Hanbery at (601) 925-3439.

Mississippi artist Charles Ambrose will be exhibiting Nov. 21-Dec. 20 in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the campus of William Carey College. Ambrose will be honored at a reception on Nov. 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; or by appointment, (601) 582-6192.

Sharon Parker, a senior accounting major at William

Carey College, received the scholarship and the designation of UPS Scholar based on her outstanding academic record.

The Chevron Scholar and recipient of the 1996 Chevron Companies has been awarded to **Jackie Outley**, a junior chemistry and biology major at William Carey College.

The annual William Carey Holiday Baseball Camp (ages 7-17) will be held Dec. 26-28 on campus from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. The camp will feature John Stephenson, former Carey coach and currently a coach with the New York Mets. Applications may be obtained by calling (601) 582-6110 or 582-6192.



Three generations serve as deacon in Carey Chapel Church (Marshall) "Carey Chapel Church, Marshall Association, has been blessed over 65 years with the service of Curtis Teel, Warren Teel, and Wayne Teel," said Jack Gregory, pastor. Wayne Teel, grandson of Curtis Teel and son of Warren Teel, was recently ordained as deacon. Curtis Teel was honored by the church sometime ago as an Honorary Lifetime Deacon and was presented a plaque from the church, commemorating his loyal and devoted service for so many years.



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Clarence Cutrell, former employee, MBCB, dies



Cutrell

Clarence H. Cutrell, 84, died of heart failure Nov. 7 at Newton Regional Hospital in Newton. He was a member of Broadmoor

Church, Jackson.

Services were held Nov. 11 at Broadmoor Church and burial was in Lakewood Memorial Park.

Cutrell, a native of Pine Bluff, Ark., graduated cum laude from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. He attended New Orleans Seminary.

His pastorates included First Church, Calhoun City; Trinity Church, Biloxi; First Church, Eupora; and churches in Arkansas. He previously served as director of missions in Grenada, Yalobusha, and Rankin counties.

Cutrell retired from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board where he was a consultant for 12 years in the Stewardship Department.

Survivors include: daughter, Jan Rodgers of Madison; son, Jimmy Cutrell of Gainesville, Ga.; and three grandchildren.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Freedom from legalism

Matthew 11-12

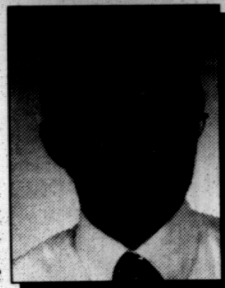
Even John the Baptist had questions about the nature of Jesus' ministry, just as people do today. John had been imprisoned with lots of time to reflect upon his work. Perhaps he had made a mistake. Could it be that he had picked the wrong Messiah? Jesus reassured John that he truly had been preparing the way of the Lord. Jesus then pointed out that all are responsible for choosing whom they would follow. Entire cities would be judged because of their rejection of God's will.

The Sabbath Dilemma (12:1-2). One of the dominant religious parties during Jesus' time was the Pharisees. Devoted to a strict observance of the laws of God, the Pharisaic laws had

become as important as the Bible for many Pharisees. They were sure that their opinions were right.

One point on which the Pharisees offered little compromise was the sanctity of the Sabbath day. Hebrews observed the last day of the week, Friday sundown to Saturday sundown, as a day of rest and worship. The Pharisees had devised detailed regulations to help guide the Jews on how they could observe the Sabbath correctly. To pluck grain was to harvest a crop, which was strictly forbidden on the Sabbath.

Jesus Responds to Legalism (12:3-8). Jesus and the Twelve were on a journey and did the customary thing, picking heads



Ronald Bishop

of grain from fields as they went. Some Pharisees accused them of breaking the Sabbath. Jesus responded by using two Old Testament examples of people who justifiably violated Sabbath laws.

Rules are not made to be broken, but sometimes situations arise that demand a suspension of a rule. Jesus pointed out that one cannot build a religion that pleases God on rules alone. This is the meaning of the phrase, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." God is more concerned with an attitude that leads to obedience than rules that are blindly followed. The Pharisees preferred that Jesus and his followers go hungry than to violate one of their Sabbath rules. They could not see that what the disciples were doing was not the same as harvesting a crop.

Jesus summed up his response to the conflict in verse

8. "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath." Sabbath regulations are important, but less important than Jesus. He makes and interprets the rules. If one approaches an intersection and the traffic light is red but a police officer is directing you to proceed, the correct action is to obey the officer. Running stoplights is not normally legal, but in this case it is. Likewise, Jesus takes precedence over rules. He advocated that his followers consider the situation, use their best redeemed reason, and make a good decision. You do not necessarily displease God if you do something on your day of worship you would not ordinarily do. After all, Jesus is lord of the Sabbath.

Jesus Meets Needs on the Sabbath (12:9-13). Jesus not only allowed people to take care of the necessities of life on the Sabbath, he also did his work on the Sabbath. The Pharisees allowed that one might prevent a sick person

from getting worse on the Sabbath. The Pharisees found Jesus face-to-face with a man who was sick, but whose condition probably would not worsen. They asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" Jesus pointed out that most of us would rescue an animal in distress on the Sabbath. Why would we not help a person in distress? Jesus shook up the thinking of the Pharisees when he uttered, "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Rather than refusing to do any work on the Sabbath, God's people now have a broader choice. Jesus replaced the legalism of the Pharisees with the chance to do good when it is needed.

Jesus stressed that good religion does not consist of rules, but of relationship. Doing good should be the Christian's priority. Good acts may be performed at any time.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

LIFE AND WORK

Unadulterated sex

Ex. 20; Mark 7; I Cor. 7; Eph. 4

According to God's Word, sex is a sacred gift reserved exclusively for the marriage relationship. Parents and churches should speak loud and clear on this issue. The world bombards every age group with misinformation about sex. Besides living a Godly standard, every mother and father needs to be able to verbally communicate to their family God's wonderful plan for men and women in marriage. Every child deserves to have their questions about sex answered in the best way possible for their age, and then to clearly understand the basic guidelines for healthy dating and courtship.

No adultery permitted (Ex. 20:14). What is adultery? When a married person voluntarily engages in sexual activities with

someone other than their spouse, then adultery is committed. This commandment against adultery laid the foundation for a strong home. At that time in history, women were considered to have little value—they could even be bought and sold. Therefore, this commandment challenged the Hebrews to a high standard of living. Their lifestyle would be quite different from their neighbors. Sexual immorality defiles the marriage relationship. Hebrews 13:4 says: "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

The source of sexual



Cynthia Douglas

immorality (Mark 7:20-21). The source of sexual immorality is "from within, for out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts and sexual immorality" (v.20). Therefore, believers must be on guard against sexual immorality in every form.

Pornography is readily available in today's world. Not only must parents avoid pornography, they must teach their children to avoid it. Sex becomes degraded and ugly when the person's heart is evil. God did not intend for sex to be public entertainment. Proverbs 4:23 says: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

God's plan for sexual fulfillment (I Cor. 7:2-5). Paul enhanced the Godly view of sex by advising husbands and wives to be sensitive to each other's sexual needs. In marriage, partners become one flesh. Paul cautions against using sex as favor or as punishment. Verse 5 says absten-

tion from sexual relations is permissible only with two stipulations—first, if both partners agree to abstain for spiritual reflection and second, to abstain only for a short time.

Godly parents should talk openly with their children, and especially as they prepare for marriage. Wrong and inadequate information can be a breeding ground for unhappy relationships. Sexual desire is a part of God's plan for humanity. God intended for man and woman to find complete, happy sexual fulfillment within their marriage.

A call to pure living (Eph. 4:17-19). In Ephesians, Paul was warning Christians against living like the pagan Greco-Roman culture. The pagan culture did not have a Godly moral code and promoted sinful excess in sexual gratification. Sin hardens hearts and leads a person away from a Godly lifestyle. Does this warning apply to Americans today? Yes, our society seems to be losing its moral standard and

to be promoting selfish pleasures at any cost. Tragically, many professing Christians fall into the trap of impure living which leads to destruction.

Paul appeals to the believers to stop living like the pagans. God calls His own to a high standard of living in Christ. Pure living involves resisting the pressures of secular society, and pressing on toward the Godly standard of living.

God's Word on unadulterated sex applies to married and single people. Marriage means the partners are to be faithful and committed to each other. Sexual activity outside of the marriage vows is sin. Are you committed to be faithful to God's commandments regarding sexual conduct and attitude? God's grace is available to forgive every sin of the past. Claim God's forgiveness and seek His strength to live for Him!

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Find hope beyond despair

Ezekiel 37:1-12, 14

I've seen miracles happen right before my eyes. I've witnessed marriages where people had given up suddenly spring to life like young love. I've watched individuals who thought that not even God knew their plight come alive. Churches which have rocked along with business as usual suddenly experience revival and once more the Spirit of God moves freely and openly across literally every member of the fellowship. I've seen seemingly dead bones live! The Holy Spirit of God can do that.

Ezekiel sensed startling possibilities in the vision recorded in chapter 37. His vision reminded him perhaps of more than just

Israel. Perhaps he saw bits and pieces of himself scattered amongst the bone and sinew? Every leader of God's people needs to include themselves where there is stench of death among the people of God. No followers are any more revived than the leader himself.

The truth behind the scattered bones was obvious. Their choosing other gods as opposed to the One true God had led to their own banishment from the Promise Land. The most devastating sin we commit is the kind that comes back to haunt us.

God came to Ezekiel like he does to you, and He declares,



Jim Phillips

"Can these bones live?" (v.3). Even though things appear lost and hopeless, is there a chance of renewal? Of revival? Ezekiel answered correctly, "O' God, only if You do something!" (Author's paraphrase).

Sometimes a simple reminder of the power of God will do. At other times it takes a nudge towards the Lord. At other times, we need a "SHOUT." "I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life." (v.5). Hallelujah! I'm so glad that's what God told Ezekiel. It's what many lives, relationships, and churches need to hear. We may resemble the church, or a marriage, or a happy go lucky Christian, but if the Spirit of the Lord is absent, we're no more than walking corpses biding our time.

When Ezekiel was faithful to

proclaim the truth, a miracle began to take shape (vv. 7-8). The disorganized corpses began to come together. Don't forget, this vision was of the people of the earth that God had called apart to be his own. They were the ones chosen by God to be a blessing to the whole earth. And here they were scattered like a bunch of tinker toys. They were out of place and without the Presence of God because their behavior hadn't warranted God's Spirit to be present.

Do you feel ready to throw in the towel? Has your own, or someone else's failings shoved you into a corner without God? Has your marriage turned into a nightmare because you allowed something or someone else to take priority? Has a dream come crashing down around you even though you've made sound business decisions? Perhaps you've just

plain lost the joy for living? Nobody did anything, you just stopped working on life somewhere along the way.

God can restore hope. He would love nothing better for you. He can bring life to the lifeless and power to the powerless. There's always hope when God is still invited to restore life. Ezekiel's vision came true. When God's people sought the Lord to put his Spirit back into them, hope returned (v.14). God desires nothing less for us. To not sense the Presence of God is to sense very much his absence. Ask God right now to begin a movement in your life and home and church. Jesus declared, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Jn. 10:10). There is still hope!

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Mr. James E. "Bud" Britt
Mr. & Mrs. Ray L. Moore
Mr. J. D. Brock

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Barlow
Ms. Elzene P. Bell
Mr. J. D. Sr. Brock
Ms. Maxine Ainsworth
Dollie Mae Brodelon
Mrs. Lorena B. Newman
Mr. N. Dee Brookshire Jr.
Mrs. Edie Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Q. Hudson
Rev. Schuyler Brown
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Kelly Jr.
Mr. James Buchanan
Mr. & Mrs. Haughey D. Wallace Jr.
Mrs. Betty Butler
Mrs. E. F. Tyrone Sr.
Mr. F. L. Cappaert
Mrs. Doris E. Bagby
Mr. Julius T. Caston
Ms. Ravanell T. Sterling
Ms. Mollie Causey
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Kirkland
Ms. Eileen Chaffin
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bruton
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Crowe
Mrs. Kim Crowe Furr
Mr. Larry James Chessman
Mrs. Beulah West
Mrs. Bettie Chisholm
Mrs. Evelyn Rutledge
Mr. Martin B. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. F. B. Clark
Mrs. Sally Watts
Mrs. Queenie Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Baxter
Mrs. Victoria Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Neely Jr.
Mrs. Lula Cleveland
Mr. & Mrs. William & Fam Hathorn
Mrs. Opal Cobb
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Dean
Mr. John Collins
Stanton Baptist Church
Mr. Joe Mack Conner
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Faris
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge
First Baptist Church/Eloise Crossley
Azier Cook
Bethany Baptist Church
Ms. Diane Cook
Mrs. Kay Hollimon
Lagrone Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Porter
Mr. Frank Cooper
Ms. Audrey M. Williams
Mr. William Lester Billy Corle
Phillipston Baptist Church
Ms. Opal Crank
Ms. Frances L. Crank
Mavis Wells Creech
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Miller
Mrs. Mavis Wells Creech
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Butler
Mrs. Mary Lee Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Conner

Mr. & Mrs. Leo C. Wells
Mrs. Austin D. Bowlin
Nellie Lee Carr Crider
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Byrd
Mr. James Earl, Sr. Crosby
Bovina Baptist Church
Rene Cross
Ora Baptist Church
Mr. Willie Joe Cruise
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Bell Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Haygood Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Kirkland
Ms. Margaret Cullum
Mr. & Mrs. Larry E. Cook
Mrs. Earline Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. Lewyl Cockerham
Mrs. Leon Davenport
Mrs. Nancy Tate
Mr. Joseph F. Davis
Mrs. Doris M. Morris
Mrs. Mavis Davis
Mr. & Mrs. V. L. Sandifer
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. George D. Henderson
Mr. Fred DeHann
Dr. & Mrs. M. L. Dodson
Mr. Ruby Johnson
Mrs. Hallie Dewees
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.
Mr. Charles (Chuck) Dickens
Mr. & Mrs. A. Lewis
Mr. William H. Myrick
Mrs. Ruby Dickey
Mrs. Rosalie H. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hawkins
Ms. Elizabeth Giardina Crawford
Miss Dena Sue Dickson
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Beard
Springfield Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil L. Wade
Ms. Amy C. Beard
Mrs. Jean C. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
Mr. James Dorsey
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Hataway
Mrs. Annie Drake
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gowan
Mrs. Carl Drake
Mrs. John D. McCreary
Mr. Everett Dunn
Mr. & Mrs. Nat Mayhall
Mrs. Betty Dyess
Mrs. E. F. Tyrone Sr.
Mr. G. W. Eavenson
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel R. Lee
Mr. M. H. Edmonds
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Waldrup
Mr. Ray Felder
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Causey
Mr. Paul Finch
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Linder
Mr. Bobby Wayne Fleming
Ms. Lila A. McCoy
Mrs. Marie Fondren

Mr. & Mrs. Willis B. Owings
Mrs. Bryan D. Stringer
Mr. & Mrs. William Hathorn
Ms. Deborah F. Hatmaker
Mr. & Mrs. M. M. Shackelford
Marion Fortenberry
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Mr. Douglas Foreman
Stanton Baptist Church
Mrs. Marsha Foster
Stanton Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Harper
Annette Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Hammond Jr.
Mrs. Ann Freeman
Susan Ezell
Mrs. Rosa Gelston
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Wade
Mr. Rex Giles
Calvary Baptist Church
Mr. Charles Godbold
Mr. & Mrs. Grover Kyle
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Kyle
Mr. Peyton E. Goldbold Sr.
First Baptist Church
Mrs. Bert Grayson
Mrs. Mary H. Lane
Dr. J. R. Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L. Culpepper
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Henry
Mr. Wade S. Grubbs
Stanton Baptist Church
Mr. Doyle Levie Gunn
Mrs. Frank B. Fortenberry
Mildred Guyton
Calvary Baptist Church
Mr. Dickson Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Crowe
Ms. Katherine G. Hammons
Terry Bangert
Mr. Albert S. Hammons
Sid Hammons
Mr. McLain Hatch
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Culpeter
McRae's Miss Associates
Mrs. Thelma Bess H. Baggett
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Fountain
Aunt Arlee, Martha and Hilton Ray
Ms. Mary Rose Thomas
Mr. Conley Hathorn
Mr. & Mrs. Albert F. Davis
Mr. Dewayne Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. Danny E. Hamilton
Mrs. Eula V. Hearn
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace W. Johnson
Ms. Nola Helms
Mrs. Beulah & Family West
Mrs. Beatrice Hendrix
Mrs. Irene Loftus
Mrs. D.C. Henson
Mr. Wendell Webb
Mrs. Edna Henson
Rev. & Mrs. William F. Evans

Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones
Mr. Dorsey Higdon
First Baptist Church/Eloise Crossley
Mr. John Lewis Higgins
Mrs. Mary V. Golding
Mrs. Sue Hill
Mrs. E. E. Blakemore
Mrs. Emma Hobbs
Mrs. Fern Pattie
Ms. Dixie Pattie
Mrs. Elizabeth Hobbs
Macedonia Baptist Church
Mr. Charles Holcomb
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Harpole
Mr. Marvin Holcomb
Mr. Charles W. Sappington
Mr. James Holeman
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sledge
Mr. Gordon Holloway
Ms. Vivian Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. David S. Wansley
Mr. John Holmes
Mrs. Rosalie H. Brown
Mrs. George E. Hart Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Lipe
Mr. & Mrs. Powell E. Poe
Mrs. Charles C. West
Mr. John W. Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. D. Erle
Mr. T. E. Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. Otis T. Marshall Jr.
Mrs. Bessie Huckaby
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Chisolm
Ms. Mavis Patterson Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mrs. Margaret Huff
Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church
Mr. Garth Ingram
Mr. Thomas Bruton
Miss Willie Grace Ivey
First Baptist Church
Dr. & Mrs. Frank L. Butler
Mrs. Dorothy H. James
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Miller
Rosemary James
Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Broadus
Ms. Mayfield Jarrett
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert L. Haynes
Curtis L. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Joe P. Boucher
Mr. Bryan Johnson
Ms. Julia Mullins
Ms. Avis Louise Mullins
Mrs. Lurline Bland Johnson
Mrs. Sherwood R. Bailey Sr.
Mr. Cory Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Britt
Mr. & Mrs. Noah M. Mills
Dr. & Mrs. Neil H. Simmons
Mrs. Charles Rupert Smith
Mr. Josh Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Wiley & Ben Greer



The region 5 meeting was under the direction of Wilda Fancer, coordinator.

The BCV hosts the WMU region 5 meeting for 7 counties in Central Mississippi



Alisa Brashear, social worker, brought special music during the meeting.



Rev. Ronnie Robinson, BCV Executive Director; Chrystelle Thames, public relations director; and Alisa Brashear, social worker, answered questions about the BCV ministry.



Melinda and Russell Kyzar, foreign missionaries to Costa Rica, shared with the ladies present at the meeting how they have helped reach the world for Christ.

*Jesus Christ
requests the
honor of your
presence in
heaven!*

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT
NOW!

Simple share the following
prayer with God in your own
words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need
you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want to be forgiven for
my sin and set free from
eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to for-
give my sins and to restore
my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From
this time on, I want to live
in a loving relationship
with Him.
*(I receive Christ as my
Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received
Him, to them He gave the
right to become children of
God, even to those who
believe in His name
John 1:12

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiri-
tual guidance.*

Clarke College alumni to revive Lottie's star

The Lottie Moon star will shine once again on the former Clarke College (CC) property in Newton.

CC alumni officers are sponsoring a special foreign missions focus and gathering at 5 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the alumni center, which is located at 101 McMullan Street in Newton.

Members of the alumni association voted to continue the emphasis, which has been the focal point of many lives since its conception nearly 40 years ago.

As part of the foreign missions emphasis, alumni voted to set a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$600, which is to be given above the gifts given through local churches.

The names of Clarke missionary alumni have traditionally been displayed as ornaments on a Christmas tree. As part of the foreign missions emphasis, a Christmas tree will be decorated with alumni missionary ornaments, while each missionary name will be called in prayer.

The Lottie Moon star will be hung on the front of the alumni building, and all alumni are encouraged to be a part of the lighting of the star.

For more information, contact J.B. Costilow at (601) 683-2029. Gifts to the CC alumni Lottie Moon Offering campaign can be mailed to the Clarke College Alumni Association, P.O. Box 493, Newton, MS 39345.

Annuity Board funds go to daily valuation

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention has converted its four investment funds from monthly to daily valuation, making possible daily transfers among the four retirement investment funds, according to John R. Jones, senior vice president for fiduciary services.

"The performance of each fund and the fund's net asset value (NAV) — the per unit price of a fund — will be available daily," Jones said. "Net asset value is the current market value of one unit of an investment fund. It's the price at which an investor would sell or buy one unit," Jones added.

The NAV of all four funds has been calculated daily since Friday, Oct. 11. The calculation is done after the close of business each day by subtracting any expenses from the funds closing market value. The result is then divided by the number of outstanding units to arrive at the net asset value.

The NAV can be heard 24 hours a day on the Annuity Board's Voice Information Processing Service (VIP Service) at 1-800-262-0511.

Daily valuation offers participants previous-day account information, faster processing of transaction requests and use of current values for transactions. Previously, valuation of the funds was at the close of the last financial markets business day of each month. Transfers could be made only once a month and the change order had to be received before the close of business in the month for which the value was struck.

"Daily valuation enables participants to move money from

fund to fund on any day the financial markets are open," said Jones. "However, the AB does not recommend market timing or frequent switching of investments. These systems changes are being made to provide enhanced services to our participants and provide those services more efficiently," he said.

Participants who wish to transfer accumulations among investment funds or change their instructions for contributions allocation may do so by calling the VIP Service and pressing the appropriate keys on a touch-tone telephone when prompted by the automated voice. During business hours they can speak to a customer relations specialist.

There will be no restrictions on the number or frequency of daily transfers. Each transfer order on the VIP service will generate a written confirmation.

On Jan. 1, 1997, the present four-fund structure will be replaced by a new 13-fund structure, and all 13 of the new funds will have daily valuation. Four of the new funds are "blended" funds, made up from the nine "select" funds. Participants can choose one or more blended funds, or build their own portfolio using select funds.

Participants who did not return to the AB a Participant Investment Election form by Nov. 1, had their investments transferred into the new funds in proportion that most nearly matched their previous allocation among the four current funds.

For more information regarding your retirement account call the VIP service at 1-800-22-0511.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I feel our pastor has run his course at our church. I have prayed about this; what else should I do?

Allow God in his own time to move him, if that is God's will. In the meantime, realize that God must continue his work through your church and your pastor. Keep praying, think long and hard about this, and seek what God wants you to do. List on paper the pros and cons of the situation. What is going well in your church? What are your pastor's strengths? Get in his corner and encourage him. He may be struggling with problems beyond the church, so pray for him that he may "see the light" and correct his course where necessary. If you are still troubled, gather together two or more church members of trustworthy character and continue praying earnestly

for God's will. Lastly, don't leave yourself out of this problem. Expand your thinking to include your role in this situation and how God can use this to help you grow as a Christian.

I have lost all trust in pastors. Whom besides the Lord are we really able to trust behind the pulpit?

Pastors are human; they can make mistakes. If you believe a pastor is doing something wrong, build a plan of action around Matt. 18:15-17. Speak the truth in love. Be a part of the solution and not the problem — pray for him. The purpose of the pastor is to point us toward Christ. The role of the church is to serve Christ. If a pastor and the members of a church are both seeking Christ, the truth will be found and will be evident to all.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Partnership missions

Bill Causey (top photo, right), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presents a plaque commemorating the partnership agreement with Honduran Baptists to Roberto Rodriguez (left), executive director of the Honduras Baptist Convention, during the Oct. 29 evening session of the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Convention.



Patsy Davis, (right photo, left) executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union in Venezuela, presents a weaved basket to Bill Hardy, coordinator of the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at the Oct. 29 evening session of the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Convention. Mississippi Baptists and Venezuelan Baptists have a missions partnership agreement. Volunteers for 25 teams of two persons each are being sought for a March 7-17, 1997 evangelistic campaign. For more information contact Sonny Adkins, Evangelism Department, or Bill Hardy, Partnership Missions office at 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800.

